

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A combination of a screw grommet and an associated tapping screw, wherein the screw grommet comprises ~~comprising~~ a shank to be inserted into a mounting hole in a workpiece and a flange formed at one end of the shank that is larger than the mounting hole in the workpiece, wherein a cavity is formed in the flange and the shank into which ~~athe~~ tapping screw can be screwed to join a mounted member to the workpiece, wherein the shank has a rectangular cross-section appropriate for a rectangular cross-section mounting hole in the workpiece, wherein both the flange, and a section of the shank that extends from the flange a distance that is substantially less than the length of the shank, are divided by a plurality of axial slits, to allow a section of the shank to widen in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the shank by screwing the tapping screw into the cavity, wherein

protrusions project from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank separated axially from the flange by about the thickness of the workpiece, wherein the protrusions are arranged diagonally to one another in the rectangular cross-section of the shank, wherein the axial slits are formed in positions corresponding to the center of all sides of the periphery of the rectangular cross-section of the flange and the shank and are spaced from the protrusions, wherein the protrusions have an L-shaped cross-section embracing corresponding corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank , wherein the slits terminate at about the middle of the axial length of a portion of the cavity engaged by threads of the screw, and wherein a section of the cavity extending axially without slits toward the tip of the shank has a length able to accommodate at least one pitch length of the screwed in tapping screw.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A screw grommet having a shank and a flange at one end of the shank, the flange and the shank having a cavity extending axially of the screw

grommet and the flange and the shank being divided by a plurality of slits extending axially of the screw grommet along only a portion of the axial length of the cavity, wherein the flange and the shank have rectangular cross-sections and the slits centrally divide all sides of the rectangular cross-section of the flange and the shank, and wherein the shank has a plurality of protrusions projecting from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank at positions spaced from the flange and from the slits.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A screw grommet according to Claim 65, wherein the protrusions embrace corresponding corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank.

8. (original) A screw grommet according to Claim 7, wherein the protrusions are disposed at opposite corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank.

9. (currently amended) A screw grommet according to Claim 65, wherein each of the protrusions has a shoulder facing the flange and has an inclined surface that

approaches an outer surface of the shank in a direction toward a tip of the shank remote from the flange.

10. (original) A combination of a screw grommet according to Claim 65 and an associated tapping screw, wherein the ~~screw grommet has an associated~~ tapping screw is dimensioned to be screwed into the cavity through the flange, and wherein the slits extend over an axial length of the shank that is about half the axial length of threads of the screw.

Claim 11 (cancelled)